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LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

CARTOUCHE.

To escape from the dangers of his growing celebrity Cartouche resorted to infinite disguises. Often he concealed himself in the habit of an abbe, sometimes in a suit of rags but more frequently he disguised himself as a student or a young Marquis. In the most elegant costumes he mingled with the stock-jobbers in the Rue Quincampoix, transacted business affairs, and discussed the news of the day, gathered by him in the principal cafes of Paris. It was not, however, until 1721 that the name of Cartouche became a reality in Paris; that there was no longer any doubt as to his actual existence. And at this time he occupied Paris and plundered it at his will. The robbers, or the band of Cartouche, as it was now universally called, did not fear to attack royalty and the Princes of the blood. Buckles, swords, poniards disappeared from the Court as if by magic. The Regent more than once laughed heartily at these adroit robbers. He even attempted to rob the robbers. He dispensed with carrying money, and bought a sword with a sharp point. It was a good undertaking in principle, but not in result, and the attempt cost his Highness 1,500 livres which he had paid for a sword manufactured in London. As he left the opera the sword disappeared and the laugh was on the side of the unknown robber. But when the Parisian banditi personified in the invisible Cartouche multiplied the number of their assassinations, and actually became dangerous in the Court itself, then at last the authorities united in a definite and formidable attack. A murder committed in May, 1721, caused the Regent to determine to put an end at once to the band which was devastating Paris. At this time Cartouche ran many serious risks. A spy had been for several days upon his track. To disgust this man and his associates, Cartouche resolved to give him a lesson. On a public fete day all the police were drawn up in the Rue de Tournon; for this reason Cartouche chose that day and the vicinity of Luxembourg for the scene of his operations. The spy was on hand and waiting only an opportunity to fall upon him. Suddenly Cartouche turned, seized his man by the collar, and in the open street, in full day, before two hundred archers drawn up in line, he struck him several rapid blows with his cane. At the cries of the poor wretch the police approached. Cartouche ran, turned into an obscure alley, took from his pocket a wig and put it on, changed some details of his costume, painted wrinkles in his face, and quietly reappeared in the street and mingled with those who were seeking for Cartouche.—*Impostors and Adventurers—Punch.*

A LITTLE PIG.

A most valuable and interesting addition has recently been made to the Zoological Society's collection in Regent's Park of four—a male and three females—pigmy hogs (*Porcula salvania*, of Hodgson) from the Boars of Bhotan. The extreme rarity and difficulty of procuring this animal makes its presence here of the greatest interest, and these individuals will be examined eagerly not only by naturalists, but by many Indian travelers, sportsmen, and others, who have heard of but never had the opportunity of seeing the pigmy hog. My attention was directed to it many years ago by the late Mr. Blyth, then in Calcutta, who, on my first expedition to the Nepaul Terai, in 1855, requested me to endeavor to obtain a specimen—as far as I remember neither Blyth nor Jerdon had seen it living—Hodgson, who described and named it, had heard of its existence from the Nepaulese or other denizens of the Terai or neighboring localities long before he obtained a specimen. I was unable to procure one, though I made repeated attempts to do so, and enlisted many influential friends in the search, but without success; very few appeared to know even of its existence, while many seemed to regard it as mythical. Occasionally I met with natives who said they had heard of it, but I began to fear that it might be extinct. The four fine specimens now in the gardens prove that such is not the case, and will furnish opportunity of supplementing Hodgson's description of the animal, which is to be found in the proceedings of the Zoological Society, and in Jerdon's "Mammals of India." These lively little pigs, weighing probably hardly as much as a hare, are most active and energetic; they resemble the ordinary pig in miniature, but probably may have some anatomical peculiarity which will interest naturalists as regards affinity with the Peccaries. The specific designation Salvania, is from the Sal (*Shorea Robusta,*) as the pig is, I believe, found in the part of the Terai and along the sub-Himalayan tracts, where the Sal tree abounds, and among the long grass in which the little creature hides itself. It is much to be hoped that they will breed, and thus enable other zoological collections to be supplied with specimens of a most rare and interesting species.—*J. Fayrer, in Nature.*

MUMMIES AS BRIC-A-BRAC.

The modern traveler is not content to collect merely beads and funereal statuettes and such small game. He must bring home an ancient Egyptian *in propria persona.* The amount of business done of late years in this grim kind of bric-a-brac has been very considerable. A foreign agent and wine merchant of Cairo assured me, when I returned from the Second Cataract in 1874, that he had that very season already "passed" and shipped no less than eighteen Theban mummies; and many other agents were most likely equally busy and equally successful. Amenhotep III. artfully stowed away inside a crocodile, or Hatasu rolled up in the folds of a sketching-tent, may easily have been slipped through the Alexandria Custom-house by one of these gentlemen.

Mummies, however, are expensive hobbies, only to be indulged in by the wealthy. From £90 to £100 was at that time the average price of a full-sized specimen, while from £10 to £11 was asked for a baby. I must not be supposed to imply that the general mummy market was supplied by the brothers Abd er Rasoul. Their goods were too precious and too perilous to be parted from except under conditions of elaborate secrecy and exorbitant payment. The purchaser of the Pinetem papyrus paid £400 for his bargain, and it may be assumed that a royal mummy from the same source would have cost at least double that sum. That Rameses II. was, as lately as 1880, actually offered for sale to a wealthy American (who did not, however, believe in the genuineness of the article as reported, and declined to deal) is a fact for which I have the authority of one of that traveler's companions.

But the ordinary mummy sold to the ordinary tourist is of quite another class. He belonged in his day to the lesser nobility; that is to say, he was an architect, a sacred scribe, a civil or military official. Such mummies, ranging chiefly from the twenty-first to the twenty-sixth dynasties, form the staple of Theban trade. As for the Theban fellah, mummy-hunting is his hereditary vocation. He passes his life in digging, finding hiding, and selling; his home is an empty sepulchre; his shirt is made of mummy cloth; his children's plaything and his wife's ornaments are spoils from the dead. His forefathers have subsisted for generations by this equivocal industry, and his descendants will subsist by it for who shall say how many generations to come?

Even now, after centuries of spoliation, the soil needs only to be dug a little deeper in order that the spade may strike a lower stratum of graves. And if this be true of a mine so long and so persistently worked as the Necropolis of Thebes, what must be the sepulchral wealth of thousands of other burial fields, some partially and some wholly unexplored? To this day the mountain ranges and shifting sands of Egypt conceal some hundreds of millions of mummies. Dr. Birch—counting from B. C. 2000, when mummification was supposed to have been first practiced, down to A. D. 700, when it may be said to have ceased—calculates the approximate number of bodies embalmed during that period at four hundred and twenty million.

But recent explorations among the pyramids of Sakkara, and the discovery of the mummied corpse of King Merenra, (sixth dynasty,) must henceforth compel us to ascribe a much earlier date for the beginning of the art. I would venture, in fact to carry it back to B. C. 3000, or B. C. 4000, so assigning a period of four thousand seven hundred years for the observance of the process, and approximately estimating the gross number of mummies of all epochs at not less than seven hundred and thirty-one million—a gigantic total. Yet when it is remembered that the rites of mummification were performed not only for every Egyptian man, woman and child, gentle or simple, but for every stranger, no matter what his nationality or religion, for every captive, for every slave, for every criminal, for every leper and outcast, this presumed total of seven hundred and thirty-one millions falls probably far short of the actual number.—*Harper's Magazine.*

A CURIOUS FACT.

Professor W. D. Gunning, the noted scientist and geologist, made the following statement in a recent lecture: A codfish in one year lays three million eggs. Suppose that every egg became a cod; suppose that in all the universe there is only one codfish; that all germs lived, and that space furnished matter, as the fishes furnished eggs. On the morning of your twentieth birthday you hold this fish on the palm of your hand, walk out on a pier, and drop the cod into the sea. Then fly. Under your feet in one year will be an ocean of cod, investing the globe and overtopping the loftiest peaks of Colorado. With the speed of light fly. Through the depths of space fly. The swelling, bounding globe of cod is after you, and on the morning of your fortieth birthday it will overtake you and engulf you in Orion's nebulæ! The speaker couldn't tell a bigger fish story than that.

OUR CAST-OFF CLOTHING.

A Chicago rag-dealer estimates that each of the fifty millions people of the United States discards an average of five pounds of clothing yearly, which makes two hundred and fifty million pounds for the whole. Then, he says, there are the tailoring establishments, big and little, whose cuttings are not much less in quantity, in the aggregate, than the cast-off clothing of the nation at large, while their quality as rags is greatly superior. Then there are carpets, and bedding, and curtains, and other domestic articles of cloth of some kind, which make up a goodly bulk in the course of a year. These different articles combined make up another two hundred and fifty million pounds of cloth material which has been discarded from use, and which eventually finds its way into the rag-man's bale. His estimate is that one hundred carloads of rags enter and leave Chicago daily.

I would study, I would know, I would admire forever. These words of thought have been the entertainments of human thought in all ages.—*An Address.*

Nature is upheld by antagonism. Passions, resistance, danger, are elementos. We acquire the strength we have overcome. —*Emerson.*

Aspiring beggary is wretchedness itself.